



THE CHURCH IN WALES:

INCREASE OF THE EPISCOPATE.

A Paper

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A PRAYER FOR THE INCREASE OF THE EPISCOPATE.

*Recommended by the late Bishop Wordsworth, of Lincoln, and used
by him, daily, at his family devotions.*

O LORD JESU CHRIST, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Who didst continue all night in prayer, and then didst choose Thine Apostles, and hast bidden us pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into His harvest to gather fruit to life eternal, and hast promised to be with Thine Apostles alway, even unto the end of the world; we beseech Thee to quicken and bless the endeavours and offerings of Thy people for an increase of Bishops in Thy Church, and to raise up faithful men for the work of the Apostleship, in spreading forth Thy Gospel, in dispensing Thy Word and Sacraments, in laying on of hands in Confirmation, in ordering of Priests and Deacons, in ministering sound doctrine and godly discipline by driving away error and by defence of Thy truth, and in watchful oversight, wise and loving guidance, and good government of Thy Church; and to all who are called to that holy office give Thy grace and heavenly benediction, that they may faithfully serve before Thee to Thy honour and glory, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, One God, blessed for ever. *Amen.*

THE CHURCH IN WALES.

(a) INCREASE OF THE EPISCOPATE.

By WILFRED S. DE WINTON, M.A., Haroldston, Haverfordwest,
a Member of the House of Laymen, representing the
diocese of St. David's.

I LOOK to Llandaff as an object lesson to instruct Welsh Churchmen in the advantages of a diocese of manageable dimensions. If this diocese were not only of such small area, but also so well provided with railway facilities, is it conceivable that the bishop's influence could be felt as it is in every corner of this diocese ; each incumbent feeling that his work is known and appreciated by his diocesan, not from hearsay report but from frequent personal inspection ; each curate knowing that his conscientious toil will not pass neglected, but that it is seen and will be rewarded by his Father in God, whose presence has often cheered him in his work, and whose kindly sympathy has encouraged and nerved him to fresh effort, and that a warm ready welcome awaits him if he would seek for counsel and advice, not a formal request that, as the Bishop's time is already appropriated, he must content himself with communicating his troubles through the chilling medium of the post office ; that every churchwarden, if only a small tenant-farmer, and every churchworker, if only a collier or mechanic, could realize as he does that he has a friend in his bishop never too busy to hear and adjust parish difficulties ? I believe that many a humble churchworker has felt his interest in his Church more quickened and his zeal more stimulated by a shake of the hand from his bishop, accompanied by a few kindly, sympathetic words in his own native tongue, than by all the historic proofs he may hear that his Church is the Church of St. David, St. Dyfrig, and St. Teilo.

By way of contrast let us now turn to St. David's diocese, and here I must begin with a reminder that, though the cathedral is in the remotest corner of Pembrokeshire, almost washed by the waves of the Atlantic, the working centre of the diocese is Carmarthen, close to which the Bishop resides at Abergwili. St. David's stands first of the dioceses in England and Wales in area with 2,238,021 acres, nearly 250,000 in front of Norwich, which thus makes a bad second with only 1,994,525 acres. In area, St. David's is larger than Durham before it lost Northumberland, and is only slightly smaller than Lincoln before the See of Southwell was founded. Its size can best be understood if I say that it includes the whole of South Wales except two thirds of Glamorganshire and half a dozen border parishes in Radnorshire. Its greatest length from east to

west is nearly 100 miles, or about the distance from London to Leicester ; its greatest width from north to south is some 70 miles, or nearly the distance from London to Portsmouth. In population it comes twenty-third with 482,245 ; in number of benefices twenty-first, with 404 ; and in number of clergy at work, twenty-third, with 456. For the purpose of this comparison I take the dioceses as they were in 1887, before Wakefield was formed, omitting Sodor and Man. If St. David's is a good first in point of area, in its lack of railway facilities it quite defies competition. It takes five hours to get from its eastern border in Radnorshire to Milford, the railway terminus near its western limit ; and six hours to get from its northern boundary on the Dovey to Swansea in the south, not allowing for delays through trains not fitting, which, I may add, is an experience not unknown to travellers in this locality. It is simply impossible to find any town where a meeting can be held for representatives from every parish in the diocese so that they can all go and return the same day. How is it possible for the influence of any Bishop, even were he a Wilberforce, to be felt as it should be over so wide an area by clergy or laity ? The bishop must be unknown by face to an overwhelming majority of the people, even in the towns of his diocese. There must be a very large number of his churches in which a bishop has not been seen for centuries, except when they were reopened after restoration. Even within my own knowledge there are many cases in which laymen have refrained from bringing matters before the bishop, which should have been brought before him, because they knew he had not sufficient leisure to go thoroughly into them at a personal interview.

The greatest source of weakness of the Church in this diocese is the isolation of the clergy ; it is bitterly felt by them, and its consequences are most serious. I believe I am right in saying that in a majority of its country parishes there is no resident squire, and the most important personage is a small tenant farmer or freeholder, who is generally a deacon of the chapel, which as often as not is under a pecuniary obligation to him ; the parishes are large, the clergy distant from each other, so their isolation may well be conceived. I am sure many a clergyman has gone to such a parish full of zeal and energy, whom the terrible isolation and want of sympathy have driven to sloth and despair, if not to something worse. I have heard clergy from all parts of this diocese say how helpful a visit, not a *visitation*, from their bishop would be, how anxious they are for his sympathy, how impossible it is to find an opportunity for conversing with him on the difficulties they meet with in their parishes, how unreasonable it is to hope that the revived interest of their people in the Church may be quickened by a sermon from the bishop, or a few words of encouragement to the churchworkers. Of course it is impossible for any bishop of this diocese to find time for any but purely official functions ; personal contact with his clergy and laity, with its spiritualizing and energizing influence, is, except in a few cases, quite out of the question. Ought we to be surprised at the prevalence of Baptist teaching, when a confirmation has never been seen in the vast majority of country parishes which do not make good "centres," or that when the delegation of the cure of souls from the bishop to the incumbent takes place in the privacy of the palace, the

Church is given credit for Erastianism, and her "liberation" is earnestly demanded by so many religious Nonconformists who have never had an opportunity of learning from the public institution of their clergyman what the truth of the matter really is?

I am glad to say that we have already passed from the stage of academic discussion with regard to the remedy for this unworkable diocese to within measurable distance of practical politics. The diocesan conference having discussed the question at Brecon in 1887, and again at Carmarthen last year, unanimously resolved: "That a sub-division of the diocese is desirable," and appointed a committee "to consider and report upon the best means of carrying it out." This committee unanimously recommends the separation of the eastern portion of the diocese, viz., Breconshire, Radnorshire (exclusive, of course, of the border parishes now in Hereford diocese), and Gower (which includes Swansea and its populous suburbs), to form a new diocese to be called "the diocese of Brecon and Swansea." This would leave to St. David's the three counties of Cardigan, Carmarthen, and Pembroke, with an area of 1,428,973, a population of 286,958, and some 260 benefices; and would rank eighth, thirtieth, and twenty-fifth in these respects, giving to "Brecon and Swansea" diocese 809,048 acres, a population, allowing for estimated increase to date in Swansea district of 230,000, and some 140 benefices, thus ranking twenty-seventh in area, above Hereford and Bangor in population, and above Bangor in number of benefices. I do not pause to criticise or commend the wisdom of the committee's scheme; it is their unanimous recommendation, and as such will no doubt be received and adopted by the diocesan conference and by Churchmen in general. It was suggested by the Bishop of St. David's at Brecon Conference in 1887, it was approved by the Bishop of Llandaff in his charge of 1888, and it has the warm commendation of the Bishops of Chester and St. Asaph, who are both of course competent judges of the needs of their old diocese; and I think this is a case where the principles of Home Rule and Local Option may be deemed not out of place, even by those who are most strongly opposed to them in their ordinary application.

Next, as to its feasibility. Supposing that £4,000 is recognised as the minimum for old sees, and that St. David's will surrender £500 a year, and the three other Welsh sees £200 a year each, £1,100 a year will be available from old endowments; and we shall have to look to the public spirit of Churchmen to subscribe £55,000 in order to make up a £3,000 a year endowment; or £26,000, if, as I hope it may be, £2,000 a year is allowed as a minimum to start with. I have seen it stated that our laity take no interest in the sub-division, and that it is only desired by certain of the clergy; but, as Mr. Dillwyn Llewelyn said on a recent occasion, the movement is not initiated by the bishop in order to relieve himself of some of his too heavy responsibilities, but by the laity because they demand more thorough episcopal supervision.

It was a layman who pressed the discussion on the conference in 1887, and again in 1888, and eight lay persons, including the Lord-Lieutenants of two counties in the diocese, have already headed the endowment fund for the new see with promises of £1,000 each, and

three with £500 each, though no appeal has yet been printed or any public meeting held.

The diocese of St. David's has found from voluntary sources during the past four years no less than £120,000 for Church extension. I am sure that £26,000, or even £55,000, will not, after this, appear an impossible sum. £11,000 towards this has already been promised, and I trust that all Wales will make common cause with us to support as a national movement what I believe the Bishops of Bangor, Llandaff, and St. Asaph, with no direct advantage to themselves, are prepared cordially and generously to further at their own personal sacrifice; and I hope that when Wales has given her fair share, English Churchmen will not fail to extend to us their sympathy, especially if the higher minimum is forced upon Wales lest an awkward precedent should be created for English sees.

I have said that I hope £2,000 a year may be sanctioned as the minimum endowment of our new see; this is a recommendation of the committee, and was opposed by only two votes. When it is remembered that a Welsh deanery is worth only £700 a year, instead of ranging as in England from £1,000 to £3,000; that a Welsh canonry is worth only £350, instead of from £500 to £1,400; and that of the 404 benefices in St. David's diocese, 226 are under £200 a year, and according to this year's "Crockford" only three are over £400 a year net; it will be seen that Welsh endowments are altogether on a lower scale than English, and I hope it will be felt that £2,000 a year is enough for the new see to begin with. It will, of course, be said that if it begins at this it will never be raised. In answer I can point to Newcastle, where, after the £3,000 minimum was completed, a donor gave £10,000 to put the see nearer the level of its richer sisters; and it would be easy for the Bishop of Brecon and Swansea to beg for his see without asking for any personal benefit to himself, by soliciting subscriptions towards the completion of the endowment on the understanding that they should accumulate at compound interest during his tenure of the see. It is objected that we should be creating two classes of episcopal endowments. I answer that there are already thirteen varieties, ranging from the Bishop of Sodor and Man's £2,000 a year to the Archbishop of Canterbury's £15,000, and I do not propose to create a fourteenth variety. There is another very telling precedent which seems to have escaped most Church reformers. I mean the Bishops' Resignation Act of 1869, made perpetual in 1875. It is here provided that in the event of a bishop or archbishop being permanently mentally incapacitated, a coadjutor *cum jure successionis* may be appointed, with all the rights and duties of the ordinary occupant of the see except the possession of the palace and the seat in Parliament, and that the revenues of the see shall be chargeable for the coadjutor's support, in the case of Canterbury with £4,000 a year, in the case of York with £3,000, in the case of Sodor and Man with £1,000, and in any other case £2,000 a year. I submit that if £2,000 is not insufficient for the acting bishop of London, Durham, or Winchester, it is not inadequate for the Bishop of Brecon and Swansea, at least to begin with.

I now propose to deal with objections I have heard to the creation of a fifth Welsh see.

(1) "We are going to be disendowed, why make the plunder more attractive?"

To begin with, if we do our duty I do not believe we are going to be disendowed, but if I did, I should be even more anxious than I am to see the new diocese created; if disestablished, *i.e.*, if left to organize herself, the Welsh Church would want the new see rather more than less than at present, and even the most acquisitive liberationist does not propose to "nationalize" any endowment from voluntary sources given since 1818. We should be merely in fine weather putting by so much for a rainy day, and thereby doing a great deal to ensure a continuance of sunshine.

(2) The difficulty of filling Welsh sees while a knowledge of Welsh is a necessary qualification. I admit that it is not only a desirable but also a necessary qualification that a Welsh bishop should be able to address his people, and especially his confirmation candidates, in the language of their childhood and of their affections, if the Church is to compete on equal terms with Nonconformity. But the difficulty of selection is getting less each year we live. During the last fifty years there have been eight appointments to Welsh sees. The single diocese of St. David's has found four Welsh-speaking bishops in the last twenty years. Surely if one diocese has supplied a Welsh-speaking bishop every five years, the whole principality can supply one every six years. I have said that there have been four native Welsh-speaking bishops appointed. The first was received with surprise, the second with gratitude, the third and the fourth with positive enthusiasm: does this look as if the difficulty were increasing? Before the last two bishops were appointed, I heard in the diocese that supplied them the same tale of the impossibility of finding satisfactory Welsh-speaking bishops that I hear now. This shows me the value to be attached to such an objection.

Then again, it is something new for the supply of good material for English bishops to exceed the demand. Lord Melbourne is credited with saying that no part of his patronage gave him so much trouble, and when exercised, so little satisfaction to the public, as the nomination to the episcopal bench. My lord, I strongly feel that if we do our duty in finding the endowment we may rest assured that, in answer to our earnest prayers, the Divine Head of the Church will provide the man.

(3) The money that would be spent on endowing the see is urgently wanted for Church extension in Swansea, and for augmenting the 226 starvation benefices to which I have referred.

It is because I am so keenly alive to the need of supplying these two requirements that I so warmly advocate the creation of the see. We have here experience to guide us. The Churchmen of the north spent £75,000 in endowing Newcastle, though they knew that the money was terribly wanted for Church extension in Durham and Northumberland, where the churches only found accommodation for one-seventh of the population, and where parishes of from fifteen to twenty thousand souls cried for sub-division—with what result? Why, in the first four years after Newcastle was founded, Northumberland raised £244,000 for Church extension and Durham £223,000 for the same purpose, so that Bishop Lightfoot could truly say, "In nothing has the wisdom of dividing the see been more conspicuously vindicated than in its financial results."

In the first four years after Newcastle was founded, the deacons ordained in Northumberland and Durham were 170 against 134 for the last four years of the undivided diocese, and the number of persons confirmed was 37,132 against 25,815. In Liverpool diocese in the first seven years 217 deacons were ordained against 133 in the previous seven years for the same area; in the three years ending 1884, Liverpool diocese subscribed for Church extension £145,385, in the three years ending 1887, £197,821; for parochial charities, diocesan institutions, and home and foreign missions in the three years ending 1884, £98,771, in the next three years £117,508, making for the six years a total of £559,485; not a bad return for the expenditure of £100,000 on the foundation of the see.

But I shall be told it is useless to argue from the wealth of Newcastle and Liverpool to the poverty of St. David's. I can, however, point to results of sub-division quite as striking in Cornwall, the West Wales of the ninth century. In 1850 the assistant curates in Cornwall were 47; in 1869, 50; in 1876, 51. Truro See was founded in 1877, and in 1885 the 51 had become 78. Before 1877 the average number of churches built and restored was 3.5 per annum, and since it has risen to 6.6.

I have the Exeter calendar for 1887, the last that included Cornwall, and the Exeter and Truro calendars for 1889. From these I gather that the amounts given in a single year to various Church societies by Devon and Cornwall have increased since Truro was created as follows:—Missions to seamen by £485, foreign missions (S.P.G. and C.M.S.) by £1,293, home missions (*i.e.*, the general funds of Additional Curates and Pastoral Aid Societies) by £2,869, Cornwall under the last head giving more than Devon and Cornwall did together before 1877; and yet during this time £110,000 had been spent on Truro cathedral and £70,000 had only just been raised for the endowment of the see.

An eloquent speaker said at Manchester Congress last year, "We have to convince Churchmen, and to convince the capitalists, that episcopacy, as a real energizing force, working as the living centre of each diocese, radiating to the very outer ring of its circumference, and sending the heart's blood of the Church to the extremities, is essential to the vitality of the body spiritual." My lord, I think the experience of Truro, Liverpool, and Newcastle should convince them.

	ACREAGE.	POPULATION.		BENEFICES.		CLERGY AT WORK.	
		London	...	Norwich	...	London	...
St. David's	2,238	London	...	Norwich	...	London	...
Norwich	1,994	Manchester	2,297	Oxford	...	Norwich	...
Lincoln	1,775	Rochester	1,594	York	...	York	...
York	1,730	Ripon	...	St. Albans	...	Oxford	...
Exeter	1,655	York	...	Lincoln	...	St. Albans	...
Ripon	1,614	Worcester	1,287	Peterborough	...	Winchester	...
Carlisle	1,563	Lichfield	1,124	Ely	...	Manchester	...
St. Albans...	1,446	Liverpool	1,085	Winchester	...	Ripon	...
Oxford	1,385	Durham	867	Exeter	...	Ely	...
Ely	1,357	Southwell	853	London	...	Peterborough	...
Sarum	1,309	Winchester...	847	Ripon	...	Lichfield	...
Newcastle...	1,290	St. Albans	778	Manchester	...	Lincoln	...
Winchester	1,250	Gloc. & B...	695	Bath & W.	...	Worcester	...
Peterborough	1,240	Norwich	685	Gloc. & B.	...	Gloc. & B.	...
Southwell	1,182	Canterbury	653	Sarum	...	Exeter	...
Lichfield	1,082	Chester	646	Worcester	...	Sarum	...
St. Asaph...	1,067	Peterborough	612	Lichfield	...	Southwell	...
Bath & W...	1,043	Exeter	603	Southwell	...	Canterbury	...
Worcester...	1,037	Llandaff	603	Hereford	...	Bath & W.	...
Gloc. & B...	1,000	Oxford	577	Canterbury	...	Chichester	...
Hereford	986	Ely	512	St. David's	...	Hereford	...
Bangor	985	Chichester	489	Chichester	...	Rochester	...
Chichester	934	St. David's...	482	Rochester	...	St. David's	...
Canterbury	914	Lincoln	469	Carlisle	...	Durham	...
Truro	869	Newcastle	438	Chester	...	Llandaff	...
Manchester	845	Bath & W...	423	Truro	...	Liverpool	...
Llandaff	797	Carlisle	401	Durham	...	Carlisle	...
Chester	705	Sarum	372	Llandaff	...	Chester	...
Durham	647	Truro	330	St. Asaph	...	Truro	...
Rochester...	316	St. Asaph	268	Liverpool	...	St. Asaph	...
Liverpool...	262	Hereford	229	Newcastle	...	Newcastle	...
London	181	Bangor	226	Bangor	...	Bangor	...

